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NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Justice George Assigns Trial Judge in *People v. Johannes Mehserle*

San Francisco—Chief Justice Ronald M. George late yesterday assigned Judge Robert J. Perry of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County to preside over the trial of *People v. Johannes Mehserle*, a case involving the alleged murder of a BART passenger earlier this year in Oakland.

Judge Morris D. Jacobson of the Superior Court of Alameda County ordered that the case be tried in Los Angeles County on November 19, 2009, following his written order granting a change of venue request by defense counsel on October 16, 2009.

In addition, Judge Jacobson ruled that a judge of the Superior Court of Alameda County could not be assigned to preside over the case in Los Angeles County due to inadequate judicial resources at the Alameda County court. Therefore, Chief Justice George assigned Judge Perry as the trial judge under his assignment authority granted in article VI, section 6 of the California Constitution.

Well-known for his experience in presiding over high-profile criminal cases, Judge Perry has served on the Superior Court of Los Angeles County since 1992. He was in private law practice, 1985–1992 and 1976–1977. He served in the U.S. Department of Justice, 1977–1985 and 1973–1976. During that time, he served as chief of financial investigations (1980–1985) and the narcotics section (1978–1980). He received a B.A. in economics from Claremont Men's College in 1965 and a J.D. from Loyola Law School in 1972. He served in the U.S. Army, 1965–1967.

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